



“The Mission literally saved my life”

Jerome never thought he'd end up struggling on the streets . . . your generosity gave him hope

The next thing Jerome remembers after jumping from the two-story building is waking up in the hospital with broken ribs.

It's no wonder Jerome attempted suicide. He was raised in extreme poverty by a violent, alcoholic father. “I grew up around nothing but abuse,” he says.

Jerome was 7 years old the last time he saw his dad. “I

went into the basement and found him hanging from a rope,” says Jerome. His father's suicide caused his mother to become emotionally unstable. Jerome was raised by his siblings for the rest of his childhood.

Jerome joined the Marine Corps when he turned 17. After he served for four years, he became a federal

Continued inside ▶

Your gift today will restore TWICE

“The Mission literally changed my life” (Continued from Page 1)

officer for 19 years. During that time, Jerome’s brother introduced him to Jesus. “My life changed when I opened the Bible. I couldn’t put it down,” he says.

But Jerome’s life began to derail. Despite people’s warnings, he gave up his home of 14 years to live with a woman he met. “I let my flesh control me instead of the word of God. It cost me everything,” Jerome says.

“I never thought it would be me”

A month after Jerome moved in, she asked him to leave. He became homeless and lost his federal officer job. The drinking and cocaine use followed. “I never thought I would eat out of a trash can or sleep on a bench in an area I had once patrolled as an officer,” says Jerome. “I never thought it would be me.”

The loss of everything drove Jerome to jump from that building. But God used it as a wake-up call.

When he was released from the hospital, Jerome had no place to go. “I lost every worldly thing I had,” says Jerome. “I only had a dirty shirt, dirty boxers, shoes that didn’t fit me and a coat.”

As he was leaving, he saw a sign for the Mission and felt the Lord tell him to go.

You gave Jerome a new beginning

When Jerome arrived, the man at the front desk asked him if he knew Jesus and needed a place to stay. “I started crying,” Jerome says. “I thought everyone in the world hated me.”

Jerome experienced a feeling at the Mission he’d never known before: being cared for and loved without owing anything. “I truly learned about Jesus and His love,” says Jerome. “My father never told me he loved me. For someone to really love me and ask nothing in return was mind-boggling to me.”

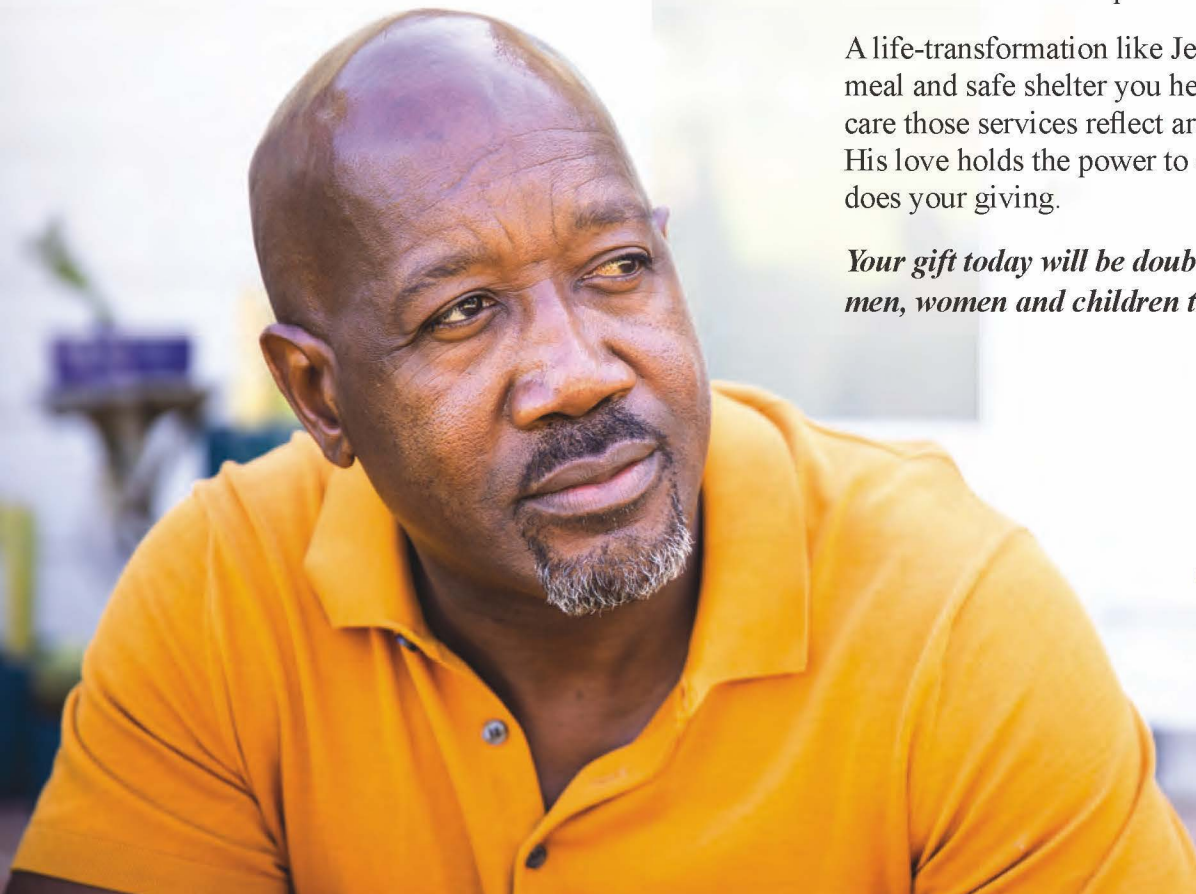
When Jerome completed the program, he was asked to attend Camp Bennett as an intern for six months. He ended up staying and working as the camp’s supervisor for five more years.

“The Mission literally saved my life,” says Jerome. “There are many dying every day on the street because they have lost hope. But because of the Mission, I know now there is hope for tomorrow.”

A life-transformation like Jerome’s starts with a warm meal and safe shelter you help provide. But the selfless care those services reflect are a mirror of Christ’s heart. His love holds the power to change any life. And so does your giving.

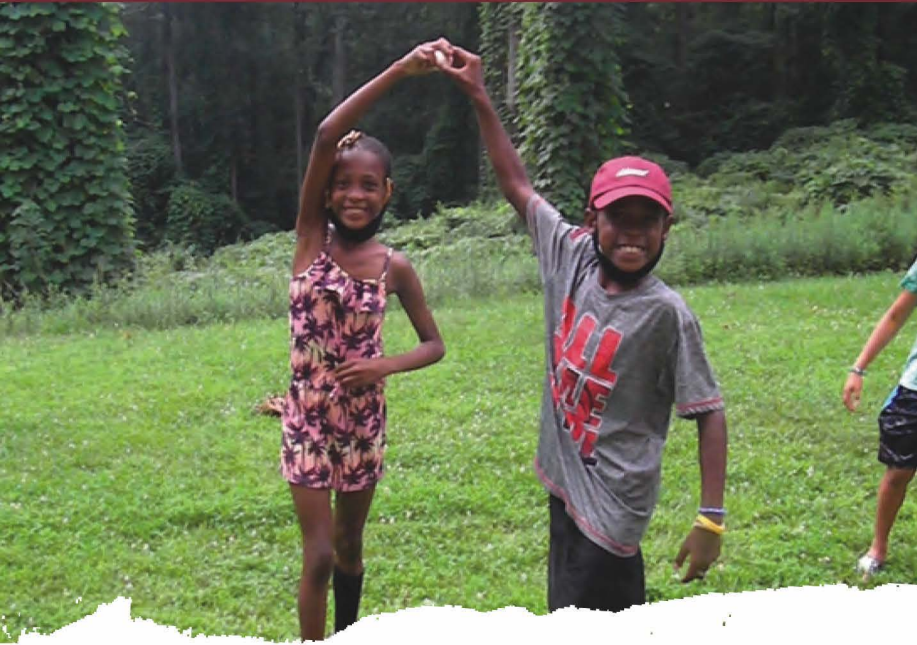
Your gift today will be doubled when you stand with men, women and children to share help and hope!

**DOUBLE
your impact
today to reach
TWICE as many
people!**



E as many lives!

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Underprivileged children can experience a summer of fun at Camp Bennett

Struggling families in the D.C. area rarely have money to send children to summer camp. That's why Camp Bennett hosts Ministry Camp—a life-changing week of fun and faith for underprivileged youth ages 8 to 13.

Children who might not have an opportunity to attend a summer camp can come explore the outdoors, make new friends and learn about Christ's plan for their life.

\$75 provides a day at camp for a child. If you'd like to give a child an amazing camp experience, go to cambennett.org



Serving men and women who first served us



JOE METTIMANO
President & CEO

Homelessness hurts all kinds of people.

But with Memorial Day coming up, I'm especially thinking about the men and women who put their lives on the line for our country.

If you ask someone who is struggling or has struggled on the streets of our city, you'll find that many of them are veterans who fell through the cracks.

Since the Civil War, the Mission has been providing food, shelter, counseling and employment training for veterans who want to get back on their feet. It takes a compassionate heart like yours to ensure each man and woman is treated with dignity.

Jerome (who is featured on Page 1) is just one of the many veterans who needed help to rebuild their lives. He could've died on the streets addicted to drugs. Sadly, that's the reality for too many brave men and women who fought for our freedom.

These heroes have sacrificially served our country. Now, we have the honor to serve them.

It starts with meeting their basic needs. Meals, safe shelter and thoughtful conversation can go a long way to help a hurting individual feel hope again.

You really are the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for standing with the Mission and giving hope to each person who comes to our doors!

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT NOW!

Give TWICE the help and hope with ONE gift

Each day, people on the streets of Washington, D.C., are facing the life-threatening problem of finding food and shelter.

Your generosity today can stretch even further to ensure the most vulnerable men, women and children receive care and hope.

A limited-time \$50,000 Challenge Grant will automatically DOUBLE your impact!

You'll do TWO TIMES as much good to bless people in our community and help them overcome the pain of poverty, hunger, homelessness and addiction.

Every \$2.09 will reach not ONE but TWO people!

Won't you please share your compassion today? Your gift now will provide help and hope! Thank you!



LEAVE A LEGACY WITH YOUR GIVING



Do your loved ones share your values?

Your generosity to Central Union Mission shows you understand how to give with purpose.

But do your children and grandchildren know how to do the same? Here are two ways you can transfer biblical values to the next generation through your giving:

1. Write it down—Compose thoughtful letters to your loved ones that share personal stories, lessons you've learned and kind words that express your love for them. You could also draft an ethical will—a personal letter that accompanies your legacy plan. Include the values you want them to carry on.

2. Collaborate—Do you volunteer time with a cause you're passionate about? Invite your children or grandchildren to serve with you at Central Union Mission. By demonstrating your personal values in action, they'll have a roadmap to do the same.

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Ways to Transfer Your Values to the Next Generation" by contacting Megan Schmoll at 202-745-7188, ext. 219, or mschmoll@missiondc.org. OR bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/missiondc.

Return these forms with your gift to DOUBLE your impact now!